

## Dicentra eximia at the Delaware Water Gap

JAMES L. EDWARDS

On January 15th, 1933, Mr. Leon W. Bowen, Mr. W. L. Highton, and the writer went to the Delaware Water Gap to look for evergreen *Aspleniums* on the cliffs with the hope of finding either Bradley's or the Pinnatifid Spleenwort growing with the Mountain Spleenwort which is fairly common there. While climbing over the ledges on the New Jersey side, about a third of the way to the top, the withered leaves and flower stalks of an unfamiliar plant were noticed in the crevices of the rocks. When examined closely, the general resemblance to the cultivated Bleeding Heart led us to believe that the plants were *Dicentra eximia* (Ker.) Torrey, which none of the party had ever seen growing in a wild state. On June 1st, 1933, the writer returned to the spot to check the identification, found the plants in full bloom, and collected specimens. The plants were found in one relatively small area on the mountain side. Many of them were growing on easily accessible shelves but a few large and healthy plants were seen high up on the face of the cliff. After surveying this locality the writer spent some time looking across the river with field glasses at the cliffs on the Pennsylvania side speculating as to the possibility of the plant being found there also. It was noted that the same more resistant strata of rocks appeared in cliffs on both sides of the river at about the same elevation and that apparently favorable ledges existed directly opposite the New Jersey site. On July 29th, 1933, with Mr. W. L. Highton, these Pennsylvania ledges were visited and a few plants were found very close to the section previously chosen as the most likely place. Due to the heat of the day extended search was not attempted and consequently the extent of the Pennsylvania station is not known to the writer at the present time.

This handsome plant was formerly found in central New York. In Pennsylvania it has been recorded from McKean Co. in the western part of the state. The station at the Delaware Water Gap appears to be at least 150 miles from any other station. Probably the discovery of the plant at the Water Gap

is really the rediscovery of a station known long ago to Mr. C. F. Austin. He had reported the plant from this vicinity but when a search was made for specimens in his collection, at the time Dr. N. L. Britton was preparing his catalogue of New Jersey plants, none were found. About that time evidence was found which tended to prove that a mistake in identification had been made as wrongly labeled material was found. Since the plant had not been found again in New Jersey, Austin's record was disregarded and the plant was omitted from Britton's catalogue. Now it seems more reasonable to think that Austin was right in his early report and that some confusion of labels and specimens took place after his death.

MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY